

**U.S. District Court  
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)  
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:19-cv-01352-APM**

BUZZFEED INC. v. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Assigned to: Judge Amit P. Mehta  
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 05/09/2019  
Jury Demand: None  
Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of Information Act  
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

**Plaintiff****BUZZFEED INC.**

represented by **Merrick Jason Wayne**  
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*ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED*

**Matthew Topic**  
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V.

**Defendant****DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

represented by **Denise M. Clark**  
U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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*TERMINATED: 11/27/2019*  
*LEAD ATTORNEY*  
*ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED*

**Michelle D. Jackson**  
U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
Homicide Section  
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*LEAD ATTORNEY*  
*ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED*

| Date Filed | #        | Docket Text  |
|------------|----------|--|
| 05/09/2019 | <u>1</u> | COMPLAINT against DEPARTMENT OF STATE ( Filing fee \$ 400 receipt number 0090-6114415) filed by BUZZFEED INC.. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit A, # <u>2</u> Civil Cover Sheet Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>3</u> Summons Summons)(Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 05/09/2019) |

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|            |           | 05/09/2019)   |
| 05/09/2019 | <u>2</u>  | NOTICE of Appearance by Matthew Topic on behalf of BUZZFEED INC. (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 05/09/2019)   |
| 05/09/2019 | <u>3</u>  | LCvR 26.1 CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interests by BUZZFEED INC. (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 05/09/2019)   |
| 05/10/2019 |           | Case Assigned to Judge Amit P. Mehta. (zsb) (Entered: 05/10/2019)   |
| 05/10/2019 | <u>4</u>  | SUMMONS (3) Issued Electronically as to DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (Attachment: # <u>1</u> Notice and Consent)(zsb) (Entered: 05/10/2019)   |
| 06/14/2019 | <u>5</u>  | REQUEST FOR SUMMONS TO ISSUE filed by BUZZFEED INC..(Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 06/14/2019)  |
| 06/19/2019 | <u>6</u>  | SUMMONS (1) Reissued Electronically as to DEPARTMENT OF STATE (jf) (Entered: 06/19/2019)  |
| 06/21/2019 | <u>7</u>  | RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 5/22/2019. (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 06/21/2019)  |
| 06/21/2019 | <u>8</u>  | RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed as to the United States Attorney. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney on 5/22/2019. Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 6/21/2019. (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 06/21/2019)  |
| 06/21/2019 | <u>9</u>  | ANSWER to Complaint by DEPARTMENT OF STATE.(Clark, Denise) (Entered: 06/21/2019)  |
| 06/24/2019 | <u>10</u> | ORDER. Both a Complaint and an Answer are now before the court in this FOIA case. It is hereby ordered that the parties shall meet and confer and file a Joint Status Report on or before July 8, 2019. The Joint Status Report shall include (1) the status of Plaintiffs FOIA request; (2) the anticipated number of documents responsive to Plaintiffs FOIA request; (3) the anticipated date(s) for release of the documents requested by Plaintiff; (4) whether a motion for stay is likely under Open America v. Watergate Special Prosecution Force, 547 F.2d 605 (D.C. Cir. 1976); and (5) whether the parties anticipate summary judgment briefing and, if so, a proposed briefing schedule. Please see the attached Order for details. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 6/21/2019. (lcapm2) (Entered: 06/24/2019) |
| 06/24/2019 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 7/8/2019. (zjd) (Entered: 06/25/2019)   |
| 07/08/2019 | <u>11</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Clark, Denise) (Entered: 07/08/2019)   |
| 07/09/2019 |           | MINUTE ORDER. By August 8, 2019, the parties shall file a Joint Status Report that updates the court on whether Defendant has agreed to produce records to Plaintiff and, if so, proposes a production schedule. If Defendant takes the position that Plaintiff is not entitled to records or no responsive records exist, the parties shall propose a briefing schedule. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 7/9/2019. (lcapm2) (Entered: 07/09/2019)   |
| 07/09/2019 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 8/8/2019. (zjd) (Entered: 07/09/2019)   |
| 07/18/2019 | <u>12</u> | RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. DEPARTMENT OF STATE served on 7/2/2019 (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 07/18/2019)  |
| 08/06/2019 | <u>13</u> | NOTICE of Appearance by Merrick Jason Wayne on behalf of BUZZFEED INC. (Wayne, Merrick) (Entered: 08/06/2019)   |
| 08/08/2019 | <u>14</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Clark, Denise) (Entered: 08/08/2019)   |
| 08/09/2019 |           | MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file a Joint Status Report by October 2, 2019, updating the court on Defendant's production efforts, and, if necessary, proposing a   |

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|            |           | briefing schedule. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 8/9/2019. (lcapm2) (Entered: 08/09/2019)  |
| 08/09/2019 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 10/2/2019. (zjd) (Entered: 08/12/2019)  |
| 10/02/2019 | <u>15</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Clark, Denise) (Entered: 10/02/2019)   |
| 10/03/2019 |           | MINUTE ORDER. Defendant shall make rolling productions every six weeks starting from September 18, 2019. The parties shall file their next Joint Status Report by November 5, 2019. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 10/03/2019. (lcapm2) (Entered: 10/03/2019) |
| 10/03/2019 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 11/5/2019. (zjd) (Entered: 10/04/2019)  |
| 11/05/2019 | <u>16</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Clark, Denise) (Entered: 11/05/2019)   |
| 11/05/2019 |           | MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file their next Joint Status Report by December 18, 2019. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 11/05/2019. (lcapm2) (Entered: 11/05/2019)   |
| 11/05/2019 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 12/18/2019. (zjd) (Entered: 11/06/2019)   |
| 11/27/2019 | <u>17</u> | NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTION OF COUNSEL by Michelle D. Jackson on behalf of All Defendants Substituting for attorney Denise M. Clark (Jackson, Michelle) (Entered: 11/27/2019)  |